

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NASSAU 00546 280042 Z

40

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 SY-10 FBIE-00 RSR-01 /120 W
----- 054382

R 272107 Z APR 73

FM AMCONSUL NASSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4184

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L NASSAU 546

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, BF, US, UK

SUBJ: ABACO AGAIN

REF: NASSAU 164; LISTER MEMO TO BURKE 3/7/73

1. AT THE END OF OUR MEETING APRIL 26, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER ADDERLEY GAVE ME AN INFORMATION COPY OF A NOTE GOBI HAS ASKED HMG TO CONVEY TO DEPARTMENT CONCERNING BRITISH PRESS REPORTS OF THE EFFORTS OF TWO ALLEGED U. S. CITIZENS, EDWIN MARGER AND MITCHELL BELL, TO RECRUIT MERCENARIES IN THE UK FOR THE ABACO SECESSIONIST MOVEMENT. NOTE ASKS USG TO INVESTIGATE AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION. TEXT BEING POUCHED. IN PRESENTING NOTE TO GOVERNMENT HOUSE FOR TRANSMITTAL, GOBI DID NOT ASK THAT UK AUTHORITIES UNDERTAKE ANY INVESTIGATIONS OR OTHER ACTION VIS- A- VIS ALLEGED U. S. CITIZENS.

2. ADDERLEY MENTIONED THAT ABACO LEADER LEONARD THOMPSON AND MR. STRATTON, ONE OF THE MAIN FINANCIAL BACKERS OF THE MOVEMENT, HAD SEEN THE PM RECENTLY AND ASSURED HIM THEY DID NOT SUPPORT SECESSION THROUGH VIOLENCE. (THIS IS IN LINE WITH INFORMATION POST HAS RECEIVED THAT MODERATE ELEMENTS ON ABACO ARE DISASSOCIATING THEMSELVES FROM THE EXTREMISTS AROUND ERRINGTON WATKINS.)

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NASSAU 00546 280042 Z

3. NASSAU GUARDIAN APRIL 27 CARRIES CABINET OFFICE PRESS RELEASE WITH THE TEXT OF THE NOTE, AND A REPORT THAT ABACO MP ERRINGTON WATKINS AND A COMPANIAN, CHARLES "CHUCK" HALL, WERE IN LONDON SEEKING SUPPORT FOR THE COUNCIL FOR A FREE ABACO.

4. SAME ISSUE CARRIES WATKINS' DENIAL THAT HE WAS IN LONDON RECRUITING MERCENARIES OR WOULD RESORT TO OR CONDONE VIOLENCE. HE STATED HE WAS LOBBYING TO HAVE THE BAHAMAS INDEPENDENCE BILL AMENDED TO EXCLUDE INDEPENDENCE FOR ABACO AND DECLARED THAT " I WILL DO EVERYTHING LEGALLY AND CONSTITUTIONALLY TO ACHIEVE THE WISHES AND DESIRES OF MY PEOPLE." WATKINS DENOUNCED THE GOBI CHARGES OVER THE LOCAL RADIO AS AN EFFORT TO DISCREDIT HIM.

5. COMMENT: PROMPT RELEASE OF THE NOTE TO THE LOCAL PRESS AND RADIO SUGGESTS THAT IT IS LARGELY AN EXERCISE FOR INTERNAL POLITICAL CONSUMPTION.
SPEAR

CONFIDENTIAL
NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973NASSAU00546
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NASSAU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730454/aaaazdj.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 NASSAU 164
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07-Aug-2001 by worrelsw>; APPROVED <05-Feb-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980204
Subject: ABACO AGAIN
TAGS: PINS, BF, UK, US
To: ARA
LONDON
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005